

The Plastic Bag Focus Group Report

April 14, 2015

Using a phased approach over the next 3 to 5 years the goal of the Plastic Bag Focus Group is to:

- **Reduce use of point of sale plastic bags**
- **Enhance civic pride by doing so**

We believe solutions to the problem should address:

- **Litter**
- **Behavior**
- **Cost** associated with: Clean-up, MRF/landfill issues and Alternatives to current system
- **Environmental/ecological footprint:** Wildlife, Watershed and Minimal impact

Phase 1 (work is largely administrative during this phase)

- Draft and pass ordinance to reduce point of sale plastic bags. Ordinance will define clear phases, each one triggered by results of the previous phase. All phases will be completed in no more than 5 years. Ordinance will include education program, recycling program and fee or ban, if necessary, to achieve reduction in of point of sale plastic bags;
- Develop metrics of success;
- Develop statement to the community;
- Develop education program for businesses and community;
- Conduct audit/disclosure of bags at retail establishments.

Phase 2

- Ordinance implementation begins including;
 - Recycling program implemented
 - Education Program Implemented (Education program will be implemented fully and continuously through private/public partnerships.)
 - Consistent recycling program at retail organizations
- Conduct evaluation to measure success including business survey;
- Results of evaluation trigger automatic implementation of a fee or a ban.

Phase 3

- Fee or ban is automatically implemented determined by evaluation results (most members but not all members of the group agreed on an automatic trigger as an element of the ordinance.);
- Evaluate and trigger Phase 4 (if fee is implemented at Phase 3 then evaluation results could trigger a ban).

Phase 4

- Determined by results of 3, Phase 4 may not be needed.